

Admiralty

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By the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of England and Ireland, &c.

WHEREAS by the Impressing of the Men belonging to the Merchant Ships, coming home from Foreign Parts, before they Arrive at the Ports to which they are designed, the said Ships are very much delayed in their proceedings, and some times hazarded, by Reason of the want of Men. These are therefore, strictly to Charge and Require all Commanders and Officers of Their Majesties Ships and Vessels, and all other Persons employed in Pressing, That when they take any Men from any Merchant Ships returning from any Foreign Voyage, They do put on Board them the like Number of Men of the Ships Company under their Command, as they shall take from them for inabling the said Ships to proceed to the respective Ports to which they shall be Bound, where when they shall be Arrived in safety, the Men are forthwith to return to Their Majesties Ships to which they shall belong. And the said Commanders are to give unto each Man they shall so spare, a Certificate under their Hands, mentioning his Name and Quality, and Number of his Entry on the Ships Book, directing also therein to what Place he shall return to the Ship, and Expressing also in the said Certificate, the Name of the Merchant Ship, and of the Master to which he is Lent, from what Voyage she is come, and to what Port she is bound. Giving also a List of the Men's Names to the Master of the Ship, and taking his Receipt for them. And in case the Ship shall be bound to either of the Ports of *London*, *Portsmouth* or *Plimouth*, upon the Men's producing the aforesaid Certificates of their Commander to the Principal Officers and Commissioners of the

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the Navy at *London*, or the Commissioner of the Navy at *Portsmouth* or *Plimouth* respectively, they are to cause them to be presently paid Conduct Money, after the Rate of one Penny a Mile, from the said Port unto the Place where they shall be appointed to return to their Ships. And if the said Merchant Ships are bound to any other Ports, then upon the Men's producing their Certificates to the Collector of the Customs in the said Port, and the Master of the Ship making Oath before him, that the said Men were Lent him from Their Majesties Ships, as is mentioned in their Certificate; the said Collector is forthwith to pay them Conduct Money to return to their Ships as aforesaid. Dated at the Admiralty Office the 7th of *February*, 169.

By Command of the Commissioners,